

FEBRUARY 1975

AT THE CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

FEBRUARY MEETINGS

Dates & Times: Matinee, 2:30 p.m., Wednesday, February 12
Evenings, 8:00 p.m., Wednesday and Thursday, February 12-13

Place: May Treat Morrison Auditorium

Speaker: Galen Rowell

Subject: "ALASKAN YOSEMITE"



Below Mt. McKinley and its surrounding peaks, the arms of the 38-mile-long Ruth Glacier converge to carve out an oversize valley of granite walls resembling Yosemite in the Pleistocene Epoch — wild almost inaccessible terrain and Galen Rowell takes you there with his camera. It covers a trip up the Alaska Highway into Mt. McKinley National Park. Here we see green tundra, a sunrise on 20,320 Mt. McKinley and photos of lynx, grizzly, fox, caribou, moose and beaver. At the frontier town of Talkeetna a bush pilot lands

three climbers on the Ruth Glacier to attempt the first ascent of the 5000-foot granite wall on Mt. Dickey (see above). Perfect weather holds at the beginning but the finish is in a blizzard — and the climb is far from over. A descent down miles of glacier is made in the storm to a cabin manned by a priest grubstaked by the bush pilot — as incongruous as the wildflowers growing from ledges and cracks in this lost, lonely world of ice, snow, rock and sky.

Galen Rowell's interest in mountaineering has led him up more than 100 previously unclimbed routes in Yosemite, the High Sierra, Canada, Alaska and several western states. He was recently selected as a member of the 1975 American K2 Expedition.

Three presentations as usual and your membership card admits you through the main entrance, Cowell Hall. At the matinee performance you will be asked to present it once again at the auditorium entrance.

MORRISON PLANETARIUM

"QUEEN OF THE TWILIGHT", a sky show dealing with our mysterious neighbor, Venus, will be featured through March 16. Performances daily at two, evening performances on Wednesday and Thursday at eight. Extra matinees at 3:30 on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. Adults, \$1.00. Those seventeen and under, 50c.

LASERIUM

"A Cosmic Light Concert Under the Stars" is the Academy's smashingly successful weekend feature. It is *not* a planetarium show nor are members' planetarium tickets and passes usable for this presentation. Here is a totally different light and sound experience that is presented Friday, Saturday and Sunday at 7:30, 9:00 and 10:30 with extra shows at 4:45 on Saturday and Sunday. Tickets are \$3.00 and are available at Bay Area Seating Service outlets (Pacific Stereo stores, Discount Record stores, and Montgomery Ward). Also, they will be available at the Academy box-office (if not sold out) at the time of a particular performance.

SPECIAL EXHIBITS

"THE GENIUS OF BENIAMINO BUFANO" is as arresting a major exhibit as the Academy has presented in a long time and certainly the most comprehensive one-man show that this late San Franciscan has ever enjoyed. Sculptures, mosaics, graphics, paintings (many never before exhibited) literally crowd Lovell White Hall, adjacent Science Hall areas, and out into the courtyard where the massive sculptures can be enjoyed fully with the eyes and the sense of touch. There is no extra charge for this special treat. It will continue throughout all of 1975. Tell your friends!

"SKYLAB", in Hohfeld Gallery, has many surprising elements. Among them, the story of 19 individual experiments that were suggested to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration by high school students across the U.S. that were accepted and performed. Also, a model of Skylab itself is suspended from the gallery ceiling. This exhibit is specially apropos as it will remain during the upcoming Bay Area Science Fair scheduled to be open to the public April 5-9.

"CETACEA" — devoted to marine mammals — continues in Cowell Hall.

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ADVANCE NOTICE OF MONTHLY ACADEMY MEETINGS:

March 12-13, April 9-10 and May 14-15

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News and Notes

A SPECIAL INVITATION TO OUR NEW MEMBERS. The Docent Council, whose members lead guided tours for school groups in various Academy halls, will be accepting applications and conducting interviews during February and March.

The basic course which prepares trainees for touring North American and Simson African Halls will begin in September and continue for twenty-two weekly sessions. The pri-

mary instructor is Dr. Robert T. Orr of the Academy staff assisted by guest lecturers from the staff as well as from local universities. This college-level course in vertebrate biology (with emphasis on the animals on display in the dioramas) is open to any Academy member willing to serve three mornings a month for two years. Gentlemen are especially welcome and needed. Tuition is \$45. Four units of upper division credit through the Extension Division of California State University/San Francisco are available for an additional fee.

It is sincerely hoped that many of you will take this opportunity to join the nearly 100 enthusiastic volunteers now serving the Academy in this worth-while project. The next open enrollment period will not occur until the fall of 1977. Further information may be obtained by calling the Docent Office, 221-4214, weekdays from nine until two in the afternoon.

The Galapagos Islands trip

announced for August 2-17 (November NEWS-LETTER) has been canceled.

It is a pleasure to report on the

writing and photographing talents of some members of the Academy staff that have evidenced themselves notably in the publication of three different volumes recently published. All are worthy of your attention and each is certainly a handsome addition to anyone's library.

"BIRDS OF WESTERN NORTH AMERICA" is the combined efforts of Dr. Laurence C. Binford, Chairman and Associate Curator, Department of Birds and Mammals, and Kenneth L. Carlson, a nationally known and respected artist. Dr. Binford has contributed an introductory essay on amateur ornithology and furnished a page of non-technical text to attend the exquisite color renditions by Mr. Carlson of the 50 Western birds included. The book is published by Macmillan, New York, and sells for \$25.

"MINERALS: NATURE'S FAMOUS JEWELS" is an extraordinarily beautiful book which represents three years of authorship by President of the Academy Dr. Ian Campbell and Mr. Arthur Court, not to mention the fabulous

photographs of M. Halberstadt. Published by Harry N. Abrams, Inc., the 318 page volume contains 188 illustrations including 95 in full color and that color range is indescribable. Included is an introduction to minerals, man's use of them, and the properties of various types — all followed by a splendid "gallery of minerals" superbly illustrated. This book is priced at \$35.

"WILDFLOWERS OF WESTERN AMERICA" is the work of Dr. Robert T. and Margaret C. Orr. This is a field guide for the flower seeker and a book about wildflowers. The volume includes 291 color photographs mainly by the authors, and is a Chanticleer Press Edition published by Alfred A. Knopf, New York. Of particular interest is a Special Identification System based on color, habitat and general appearance. It includes detailed descriptions of 400 species and 70 flower families together with detailed references to several hundred other species. The price: \$17.95. Concurrently, a "WILDFLOWERS OF EASTERN AMERICA" (by different authors) has appeared as a companion volume. Dr. Orr is Associate Director of the Academy.

AND NOW FOR A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY! At all three of February's meetings (12-13), the authors of the above will be on hand for an "autographing" party — so come early, examine these fine books, meet their creators, and have any purchases personalized. Remember that Academy members receive a 10% discount.

The Chairman of the Board of Trustees has recently announced election to that board of Mr. Peter McBean who has long been prominent in local affairs. Mr. McBean is Director and Member of the Executive Committee of the Newhall Land and Farming Company.

The lion's share of our adult education program gets under way in February. May we suggest another look at the class schedule and perhaps enroll in one of the astronomy courses, study fishes with the experts or sample any one of a variety of other field or lecture series. Registration is still open for most courses. Call the Education Office at 221-4212 with any questions you may have.

MEET THE STAFF



FRANCES MCCRANN, PBX Receptionist, was born in County Leitrim in the west of Ireland, a place her forbears had lived for centuries. She attended schools in Mount Allen and in Carrick-on-Shannon. Subsequently, she hied herself to London and labor at Courage's Brewery doing a variety of things both physical and mental, three years which she says she enjoyed thoroughly.

A persistent curiosity about the United States found her, in 1967, venturing alone to Baltimore, Maryland where she found tentative work as a maid with a private family. That family was inclined to travel so she was able to view much of the U.S. during the year she acted as a governess. Then it was New York City and a job with American Telephone and Telegraph followed by employment with the Sorg Publishing Company as a PBX Operator.

Travel always claimed any spare time available: much of Europe, Miami, New Orleans, the Virgin Islands, West Indies, Mexico, Las Vegas and finally — San Francisco (which she intended only to pass through on her way to Australia) and discovered it was the place she had been seeking all along. Her talents at the switchboard made immediate employment for three years at Coopers and Lybrand. She has now been at the Academy for two years.

She sews brilliantly, backpacks, hikes, bicycles, and any minute now wants to learn to sky-dive. All this, with music, concerts, and dancing make for a full and exuberant existence.

NEW MEMBERS OF THE ACADEMY REGULAR MEMBERS

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